



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego Public Library and Media Arts Center of San Diego Announce “Youth Voices” Community-Based Oral History Workshop

SAN DIEGO – As part of “Barrio Logan: Youth Voices – Community Stories Project,” the City of San Diego Public Library and the Media Arts Center San Diego’s Teen Producers Project will lead the first Community-Based Oral History Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 17, at Barrio Logan College Institute, located at 1807 Main St. The first of three community-based workshops offered throughout the year, the Sept. 17 workshop’s special guest will be Arcela Nuñez of the National Latino Research Center to help document and preserve local stories in the Barrio Logan neighborhood of San Diego.

“[Preserving oral histories] is absolutely critical to the development of the kind of community self-awareness that will insure community self-determination, as well as responsive governments and institutions,” Arcela Nuñez argues. “The Youth Voices Project will strongly impact the Barrio Logan community by recording and documenting its past thus enabling local residents to learn from their rich and complex history about the factors that shapes community relations, struggles, and current opportunities for positive change.”

Young people who live in Barrio Logan will work with Arcela Nuñez and local media arts instructors to demonstrate oral history gathering and schedule interviews on topics related to its documentary series focusing on issues recognized as necessary for communities’ self-sufficiency including: history, public health, education, leadership, employment, housing, and arts & culture. Barrio Logan community members are invited to arrive with old family photos and get their stories told and documented.

Entitled “Barrio Logan: Youth Voices & Community Stories,” the one-year digital storytelling project will help sustain, support, celebrate and maintain community identity and pride in an area that is widely regarded as a spiritual center for Latino civic engagement.

The oral histories gathered will contribute to videos that will give voice to featured participants while providing instructive models for leadership, community building, and civic engagement. Youth documentation of residents’ life histories strengthens communities by re-building intergenerational ties, training future leaders, preserving life stories, and offering a model to help other communities’ maintain their cultural survival.

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**Library and Media Arts Center of San Diego Announce “Youth Voices” Workshop
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Co-sponsoring the project are the MAAC Project, High Tech High School, Barrio Logan College Institute, Memorial Academy Charter School and National Latino Research Center. Funding for the project comes from a California State Library grant through the Library Services and Technology Act.

For more information about “Barrio Logan: Youth Voices & Community Stories,” contact the Central Library at 619-236-5800, or visit the Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/> . The Web site for Media Arts Center of San Diego is <http://mediaartscenter.org/> .

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